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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 98-549

DATE OF INFO. 25 NOVEMBER 1965

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DISTR. 27 NOVEMBER 1965

SUBJECT

MOBUTU MEETS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BINZA GROUP

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

REF

IN 02878

SOURCE
AND
APPRAISAL:EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(C)

1. ON THE NIGHT OF 25 NOVEMBER 65, AFTER COMPLETING HIS SUCCESSFUL COUP D'ETAT, GENERAL JOSEPH MOBUTU MET WITH HIS COUSIN, EX-FINANCE MINISTER JEAN LITHO, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BINZA GROUP.

EO 12958
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GROUP 1
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2. THE BINZA GROUP MEMBERS URGED MOBUTU TO ACT QUICKLY TO SECURE COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE CONGO. SPECIFICALLY THEY RECOMMENDED THAT HE TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

A. APPOINT PERSONS IN WHOSE LOYALTY AND ABILITY HE HAS ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE TO THE KEY MINISTERIAL POSTS. THOSE PRESENT TOLD MOBUTU THEY CONSIDER THE MINISTERIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERIOR, INFORMATION, DEFENSE AND FINANCE TO BE THE CRITICAL MINISTERIES.

B. HE SHOULD STRESS HIS STRONG-MAN ROLE BY LIMITING HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE VARIOUS PROVINCIAL AND PARTY LEADERS TO REQUESTING TWO MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES FROM EACH PROVINCE. THEY FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT HE DISTRIBUTE MINISTERIAL POSITIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING PROVINCIAL LEADERS TO DETERMINE WHICH PARTICULAR MINISTRIES THEY DESIRED FOR THEIR PROVINCES.

C. THE GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT MOBUTU ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE SMALL CLASS OF EDUCATED CONGOLESE BY APPOINTING A NUMBER OF YOUNG INTELLECTUALS TO IMPORTANT POSTS WITHIN THE GOVT.

D. DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING MOBUTU AGREED TO REAPPOINT NENDAKA AND LITHO TO THE MINISTERIAL POSTS THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY HELD IN THE KIMBA GOVT. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NAME BOMBOKO FOREIGN MINISTER. () COMMENT: SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP BELIEVE THAT LITHO IS NOT QUALIFIED TO HOLD THE FINANCE

PORTFOLIO BUT THEY RECOGNIZE THAT HE IS MOBUTU'S FIRST COUSIN AND UNDERSTAND THAT MOBUTU WANTS HIM IN THE GOVT.)

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3. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY [REDACTED]

NAVY AIR CINCMEAFSA

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END OF MESSAGE

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